

John A. Coppede (5-2485)
Tabetha M. Wolf (8-6547)
HICKEY & EVANS, LLP
1800 Carey Avenue, Suite 700
PO Box 467
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Ph: (307) 634-1525
Fx: (307) 638-7335
jcoppede@hickeyevans.com
twolf@hickeyevans.com
Attorney for Defendants G&M Landscaping LLC
and Alfred Burnham

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF WYOMING

2022 MAR -9 PM 4:52

MARGARET BOTKINS, CLERK
CHEYENNE

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF WYOMING

ROBERT EARL HINCKS,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
JOSHUA EUGENE FANN,)
ALFRED BURNHAM, and)
G & M LANDSCAPING, LLC, an)
IDAHO and UTAH LIMITED)
LIABILITY CO.,)
)
Defendants.)

Civil No. 22-cv-51-s

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendants G&M Landscaping, LLC, ("G&M") and Alfred Burnham ("Burnham"), by and through their attorneys, Hickey & Evans, LLP, hereby file this Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1446(a) for the purpose of removing the above-entitled action from the District Court of the Ninth Judicial District in and for Teton County, State of Wyoming. In support of this motion, Defendants state as follows:

1. Defendants are named as defendants in a personal injury action commenced against them in the District Court of the Ninth Judicial District in and for Teton County, State of Wyoming. The lawsuit is recorded on the court's docket as Case No. 18622 (hereinafter the "State Court Action").

2. A copy of the complaint and summons purportedly served on Defendants on or about February 14, 2022, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3. This Notice is timely filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).

4. The Complaint identifies the following parties, Robert Earl Hincks, Joshua Eugene Fann, Alfred Burnham, and G & M Landscaping, LLC, an Idaho and Utah Limited Liability Company.

5. The Removal of this lawsuit is based upon complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and all of the Defendants, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Plaintiff Robert E. Hincks is a citizen of the state of Wyoming. Defendant G & M Landscaping is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the state of Idaho and Utah. G & M Landscaping has two (2) members, one of whom is a citizen of the state of Idaho and the other is a citizen of the state of Utah. Defendant Alfred Burnham is a citizen of the state of Idaho. Defendant Joshua Eugene Fann is a citizen of the state of Alaska. Thus, there is complete diversity of citizenship.

6. Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$75,000. See civil cover sheet, Exhibit B, attached hereto. Thus, the amount in controversy exceeds the amount specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).

7. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), exhibits attached to this Notice represent copies of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon these Defendants.

8. As of the date of the filing of this Notice, no hearings have been set in the State Court action, and a trial date has not been set.

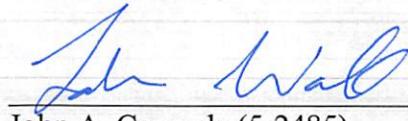
9. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), which authorizes removal to the United States District Court for the District encompassing the place where the removed action is pending.

10. Defendants will serve and certify service of copies of this Notice of Removal to all parties as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). Additionally, a copy of this Notice of Removal will be filed with the Clerk of the Court for the Teton County District Court, State of Wyoming, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

WHEREFORE, Defendants hereby remove the case pending against them in the Ninth Judicial District Court of Teton County, State of Wyoming, entitled *Hincks v. Fann, et al*, Case No. 18622, to the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of March 2022.

G&M LANDSCAPING, LLC and ALFRED
BURNHAM, *Defendants*


John A. Coppede (5-2485)
Tabetha M. Wolf (8-6547)
HICKEY & EVANS, LLP
1800 Carey Avenue, Suite 700
P.O. Box 467
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0467
Ph: 307-634-1525
Fx: 307-638-7335
jcoppede@hickeyevans.com
twolf@hickeyevans.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 9th day of March 2022 a true and correct copy of the foregoing **DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL** was served by email and United States mail, first-class postage prepaid, to the following:

Richard D. Mulligan
Mulligan Law Office, P.C.
40 East Simpson Avenue
P.O. Box 1066
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
dick@mulliganlawoffice.com


John W. Hickey

Hickey & Evans, LLP

Richard J. Mulligan, Esq.
Mulligan Law Office, P.C.
40 East Simpson Avenue
P.O. Box 1066
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
Phone: (307) 733-5961
Fax: (307) 733-5847
E-Mail: dick@mulliganlawoffice.com
Attorney for the Plaintiff

COPY

FILED
TETON COUNTY WYOMING
2022 FEB -3 PM 4:42

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TETON COUNTY, WYOMING
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

ROBERT EARL HINCKS,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
JOSHUA EUGENE FANN,)
ALFRED BURNHAM, and)
G&M LANDSCAPING, LLC,)
AN IDAHO and UTAH)
LIMITED LIABILITY CO.,)
Defendant(s).)

Case No.: 13622

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff, Robert Earl Hincks, by and through his Attorney, Richard J. Mulligan, of Mulligan Law office, P.C., and hereby respectfully brings this Complaint against the above-named Defendants: Joshua Eugene Fann, Alfred Burnham, and G&M Landscaping, LLC, an Idaho and Utah Limited Liability Co., and hereby alleges the following:

INTRODUCTION

1. This case arose out of a vehicular collision (hereinafter "the collision") that occurred at the intersection of West Broadway Avenue and West

EXHIBIT

A

Pearl Street on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 11:23 p.m., in Jackson, Teton County, Wyoming. The purpose of this lawsuit is to recover damages for serious physical injuries suffered by the Plaintiff in the collision.

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Plaintiff, Robert E. Hincks (hereinafter "Hincks"), was a resident of Teton County, Wyoming, and is presently a resident of Lincoln County, Wyoming.
3. Defendant, Alfred Burnham (hereinafter "Burnham") is believed to be a resident of Bonneville County, Idaho and to be the owner of G&M Landscaping, LLC, (hereinafter "G&M") an Idaho and Utah Limited Liability Company.
4. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, Joshua Eugene Fann (hereinafter "Fann") is a resident of Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska.
5. This Court has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Art. 5 § 10 of the Constitution of the State of Wyoming. The amount at issue in the parties' dispute is greater than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) and it is sufficient that this Court has jurisdiction.
6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants because this action arises out of Defendants' negligence caused by their acts and/or omissions within the State of Wyoming and affecting the Plaintiff.

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

Further, the Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts with the forum State and have purposefully availed themselves of the privilege of conducting activities within the State of Wyoming. The exercise of jurisdiction over the Defendants by this Court would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Similarly, it would not offend the due process clauses of the Federal or State constitutions.

7. Venue over this case is proper in this Court.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENCE OF DEFENDANT, JOSHUA E. FANN

8. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 7, and further alleges his first cause of action against the Defendant, Joshua E. Fann as follows:
 - a. Plaintiff was a front seat passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by Robert Hess (hereinafter "Hess"). Hess stopped his vehicle at the intersection of West Broadway Avenue and West Pearl Street which was controlled by a traffic signal.
 - b. When the traffic signal turned green, Hess waited to be sure the intersection was safe to enter before releasing his brakes, and at that point his vehicle was violently struck from behind by a 2017 F-350 Ford Super Duty Pickup Truck being operated by Fann, but owned by Burnham, and doing business as G&M Landscaping, LLC.

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

- c. Fann, instead of rendering aid or assistance to Hincks and Hess fled the scene in the vehicle he was driving.
- d. In response to a phone call to the police, Fann was stopped and arrested for Driving Under the Influence, to which he ultimately pleaded guilty.
- e. Upon information and belief, Defendant Fann was an employee of G&M at the time of the collision and was working at a job site in Jackson, Wyoming.
- f. Upon information and belief, G&M provided Fann with the 2017 F-350 Ford Super Duty Pickup Truck to drive for employment purposes.

9. At the time of the collision, Fann owed a duty of reasonable care to Hincks and Hess, which he breached by driving negligently, while inebriated contrary to W.S. § 31-5-233, in a reckless, willful, and wanton disregard for the safety of the Plaintiff, by failing to pay proper attention, leaving the scene of the collision without rendering aid to the Plaintiff, and failing to exercise reasonable and prudent care normally exercised by a reasonably prudent person under similar circumstances.

10. As a result of Fann's breach of his duties of care, Hincks suffered serious physical injuries. The amount of Hincks' damages will be proven at Trial.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT AGAINST
DEFENDANTS, BURNHAM AND G&M LANDSCAPING, LLC**

11. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 10, and further alleges his second cause of action against the Defendants, Alfred Burnham and G&M Landscaping, LLC, as follows:
12. Burnham owned the 2017 F-350 Ford Super Duty Pickup Truck that Fann was driving at the time of the collision.
13. Defendants Burnham and G&M Landscaping, LLC, allowed Fann to drive the vehicle owned by them at the time the collision occurred.
14. Hincks further alleges as his second cause of action against Defendants Burnham and G&M, that Burnham and G&M negligently entrusted Fann to operate their vehicle.
15. Defendants Burnham and G&M Landscaping, LLC, knew or had reason to know that Fann had poor driving history, thus posing an unreasonable risk to the safety of the public, including Hincks.
16. As a foreseeable result of Defendants Burnham and G&M negligently entrusting their vehicle to Fann, Hincks suffered serious physical injuries and suffered damages in an amount to be proven at Trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENT HIRING BY G&M

17. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16, and further alleges his third cause of action against the Defendant, G&M Landscaping, LLC, as follows:

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

18. In its ordinary course of business, Defendant G&M hires individuals to serve as employees for its Landscaping business.
19. Upon information and belief, Fann was an employee of G&M at the time of the collision and was working at a job site located in Jackson, Wyoming.
20. Upon information and belief, G&M provides company vehicles for its employees.
21. Upon information and belief, Fann was operating a company vehicle at the time of the collision.
22. Operating a company vehicle involves a risk of harm to others.
23. G&M hired an inexperienced, reckless, incompetent, and intoxicated individual, namely Fann, to operate a company vehicle.
24. G&M's decision to hire an inexperienced, reckless, incompetent, and intoxicated individual to operate a company vehicle constitutes negligence.
25. G&M's negligent hiring was the cause in fact and proximate cause of the Hincks' injuries.
26. Hincks is entitled to general and special damages for these injuries.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION BY G&M

27. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 26, and further alleges his fourth cause of action against the Defendant, G&M Landscaping, LLC, as follows:

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

28. G&M is subject to a duty to exercise reasonable care to control its employees while the employees are acting outside the scope of their employment to prevent the employees from intentionally harming others or from so conducting themselves as to create an unreasonable risk of bodily harm to others, when the employees are using a chattel of the employer and the employer:
 - a. knows or has reason to know that the employer has the ability to control the employee, and;
 - b. knows or should know of the necessity and opportunity for exercising such control.
29. At this time, Hincks is uncertain as to whether G&M will claim that its employee was acting outside the course and scope of his employment.
30. In this case, Fann conducted himself as to create an unreasonable risk of bodily harm to others, namely Hincks and his driver, Hess, when he operated a company vehicle while intoxicated.
31. G&M knew or had reason to know that it had the ability to control Fann and knew or should have known of the necessity and opportunity for exercising such control.
32. G&M's negligent supervision was the cause in fact and proximate cause of Hincks' injuries.
33. Hincks is entitled to general and special damages for these injuries.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT BY G&M

34. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 33, and further alleges his fifth cause of action against the Defendant, G&M Landscaping, LLC, as follows:
35. In this case G&M supplied chattel, namely a 2017 Ford F-350 Super Duty Pickup Truck, for use by its employee, Defendant Fann.
36. G&M knew or had reason to know that due to Fann's, inexperience, incompetence, intoxication, and/or reckless behavior, that Fann would use the chattel in a manner involving unreasonable risk of physical harm to himself and to others.
37. G&M's negligent entrustment was the cause in fact and proximate cause of Hincks' injuries.
38. Hincks is entitled to general and special damages for these injuries.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION: RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR BY G&M

39. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 38, and further alleges his sixth cause of action against the Defendant, G&M Landscaping, LLC, as follows:
40. Fann failed to exercise reasonable care in operating the 2017 Ford F-350 Super Duty Pickup Truck provided to him as an employee of G&M.
41. At the time that Fann failed to exercise reasonable care in operating the 2017 Ford F-350 Super Duty Pickup Truck provided to him as an

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

employee of G&M, he was acting within the course and scope of his employment with G&M.

42. Under the Doctrine of Respondeat Superior, G&M is responsible for the tortious conduct of its employee Fann, and which Fann performed within the course and scope of his employment with G&M.
43. Fann's negligence was the cause in fact and proximate cause of the Hincks' injuries.
44. Hincks is entitled to general and special damages for these injuries.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION: PUNITIVE DAMAGES

45. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 44, and further alleges his seventh cause of action against the Defendant, Joshua E. Fann, as follows:
46. Plaintiff alleges that Fann's actions of driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of a vehicular collision are actions which should be deterred by awarding the Plaintiff exemplary damages against Defendant Fann.

DAMAGES

47. Plaintiff reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 46, and further alleges damages against all of the above-named Defendants as follows:

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

48. As a direct and proximate result of all of the above-named Defendant's negligent, reckless, willful, and wanton acts and omissions, Plaintiff suffered injuries and damages, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Past, present, and future medical expenses, in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- b. Past, present, and future loss of income and earning capacity in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- c. Other economic loss, in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- d. Past, present, and future physical, mental, and emotional pain and suffering damages, in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- e. Past, present, and future loss of enjoyment of life in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- f. Past, present, and future disfigurement and disability in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- g. Past, present, and future caretaking expenses in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- h. Past, present, and future pecuniary losses in an amount to be proven at Trial;
- i. Punitive damages in a reasonable amount to be proven at Trial sufficient to adequately punish all of the above-named Defendants, and to serve as a deterrent and warning against future conduct of the type alleged in this Complaint;

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

- j. All allowable costs, expenses, Attorney fees and other fees associated with this litigation, and;
- k. All other damages allowed under the laws of the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Robert Earl Hincks, respectfully requests this Court to grant Judgment in his favor, and as follows:

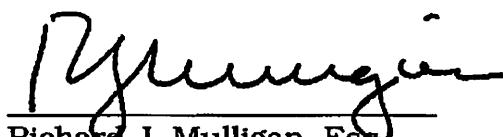
- a. Judgment against all the above-named Defendants for economic damages in an amount consistent with the allegations contained herein, and to be further proven at Trial;
- b. Judgment against all the above-named Defendants for non-economic damages in an amount consistent with the allegations contained herein, and to be further proven at Trial;
- c. Judgment against all the above-named Defendants for punitive damages in an amount consistent with the allegations contained herein, and to be further proven at Trial, and;
- d. Judgment for costs, expenses, fees, Attorney fees, interest, and any and all other further relief as this Court may deem to be just and equitable in the premises.

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

DATED this 3rd day of February, 2022.



Richard J. Mulligan, Esq.
Mulligan Law Office, P.C.
40 East Simpson Avenue
P.O. Box 1066
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
(307) 733-5961 (Phone)
(307) 733-5847 (Fax)
WY Bar No.: 5-1731
Attorney for the Plaintiff

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

SERVICE COPY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
TETON COUNTY, WYOMING

ROBERT EARL HINCKS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSHUA EUGENE FANN, ALFRED
BURNHAM, and G&M LANDSCAPING,
LLC, AN IDAHO and UTAH LIMITED
LIABILITY CO.,

Defendant(s).

Served this 16 day of February ^{on the within}
named G + m Landscaping
or leaving it with Stacy Barrett
on the 16 day of February ²⁰²²
at Davis County, Utah

KELLY V. SPARKS
Sheriff, Davis County, Utah
451-4100

Case No.: 18UV26

Deputy

SUMMONS

To the above-named Defendant:

G&M Landscaping, LLC, an Idaho and Utah Limited Liability Co.

465 N. 3550 W.

Layton, Utah 84041

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk and serve upon the Plaintiff's Attorney, an Answer to the Complaint, which is herewith served upon you, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. (If service upon you is made outside of the state of Wyoming, you are required to file and serve your answer to the Complaint, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service.) If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Plaintiff also serves upon you the attached Jury Demand.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 20 22.

(Seal of the District Court)

Anne C. Sutton

Clerk of Court

By:

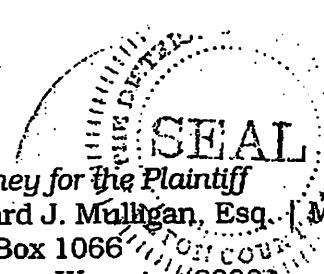
Dep. Clerk/Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk of Court

Attorney for the Plaintiff

Richard J. Mulligan, Esq. | Mulligan Law Office, P.C.

P.O. Box 1066 | TETON COUNTY
Jackson, Wyoming 83001



SEAL

RETURN FOR G&M LANDSCAPING, LLC

STATE OF: UTAH

COUNTY OF: DAVIS

I, _____, Sheriff in and for said County of Davis, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that I received the within Summons, together with a copy of the *Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial*, filed in the above-referenced case, and that I served the same in the County aforesaid on the _____ day of _____, 20____ by delivering a copy of the same, together with a copy of the *Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial*, to:

Sheriff

By:

Deputy Sheriff

Sheriff's Fees: Service \$_____ ; Return \$_____

Mileage \$_____ ; Total \$_____

COPY

Richard J. Mulligan, Esq.
Mulligan Law Office, P.C.
40 East Simpson Avenue
P.O. Box 1066
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
Phone: (307) 733-5961
Fax: (307) 733-5847
E-Mail: dick@mulliganlawoffice.com
Attorney for the Plaintiff

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TETON COUNTY, WYOMING
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

ROBERT EARL HINCKS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSHUA EUGENE FANN,
ALFRED BURNHAM, and
G&M LANDSCAPING, LLC,
AN IDAHO and UTAH
LIMITED LIABILITY CO.,

Defendant(s).

Case No.: 18622

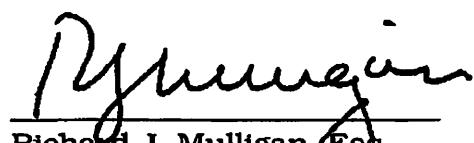
TETON COUNTY, WYOMING
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
2022 FEB - 3 PM 4:42
FILED

PLAINTIFF'S DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL AND SIX (6) PERSON JURY

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff, Robert Earl Hincks, by and through his Attorney, Richard J. Mulligan, of Mulligan Law Office, P.C., and hereby respectfully demands this case to be set for a Jury Trial, with a six (6) person Jury, in the District Court of Teton County, Wyoming, Ninth Judicial District. The required deposit fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) is hereby accompanied with the filing of this demand and with this Court.

/
/
/

DATED this 3rd day of February, 2022.



Richard J. Mulligan, Esq.
Mulligan Law Office, P.C.
40 East Simpson Avenue
P.O. Box 1066
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
(307) 733-5961 (Phone)
WY Bar No.: 5-1731
Attorney for the Plaintiff

Robert Earl Hincks v. Joshua Eugene Fann, et. al.

Case No.: _____

PLAINTIFF'S DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL AND SIX (6) PERSON JURY
PAGE 2 OF 2